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21st. (To Marshal Berthier.) I regret to find every day proposals placed before me for the quick promotion of staff officers, lieutenants of not more than two, three, or four years' service. They think themselves veterans if they date back to 1799. And yet there is no regiment that does not average eight captains dating from 1792, wounded, and who have fought in every campaign. I count seven of them in the 1st regiment, eight in the 3d, fourteen in the 4th, fourteen in the 5th, fifteen in the 6th, and so on.

22d. (To Vice-Admiral Villeneuve.) I am awaiting the news of your departure with impatience.

(To General Lauriston.) It is intended that the Toulon fleet shall combine with two other fleets. It is essential that it should weigh anchor by the 26th; hasten its departure by every possible means; let nothing delay you. Encourage the admiral to keep steadily on towards his objective, and to avoid hesitation in an operation of which the result is so vital to the future of France. My admirals lack boldness; they mistake frigates for line of battle ships, and merchant vessels for hostile fleets. Decision must be shown, and once the fleet is out it must fly straight to its mark and not go into port or turn back.

April 3d, Troyes:

Word has just come from Toulon stating that the fleet has sailed.

7th, Chalons-sur-Sa6ne:

I reckon that with the weather we are having and with the wind prevailing when the fleet started, Nelson has probably returned to Maddalena or some port of Sardinia.